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Can any thing but complete economical ruin check the States in this their now beaten path, where they compel one another to continue, it can only be accomplished by stirring up a powerful international opinion. But the immense pressure, which militarism and the development of military power at present exercises over the minds of the people, prevents such an opinion from arising and establishing itself.

The question then naturally arises, how can a powerful *International Opinion*, that duly reacts against the ruling frenzy of armament most properly be brought about?

The committee of the Swedish Peace and Arbitration society at Stockholm hereby takes the liberty of offering a prize of fr. 1000 for the best reply to that question. The plan must be practical and of international applicability; it must be written in one of the following six languages; English, German, French, Swedish, Danish or Norwegian, and before the 1st of March 1894 sent to Mr. Gustaf Björklund, address; Stockholm, Sweden.

EVENTS OF THE MONTH.

The World's Fair was closed on Sunday, July 23d. "Deserted as a graveyard" was said to be its condition. The great blunder has been corrected, so far as such a blunder can be corrected. The Local Directory, finding that Sunday opening was a financial failure, that they were in conflict with the National Commission and that they were suffering under the condemnation of the national conscience, decided on July 14th by a vote of 24 to 4 to close the gates on the Lord's day. The Directory is deserving of some credit for this action, just how much our arithmetic is unable to calculate. It is much better to do right because it pays, than to do wrong.

Of one thing we feel sure, viz., that this step will add materially to the receipts of the Exposition. Many people who had lost heart about it, will now do all in their power to make it a success. But indefinitely more than this has been gained in the increased respect and honor which have thus come to the American Sabbath. It has been discovered that on secular as well as religious grounds the Sabbath is greatly appreciated by the people. Its violation will hereafter be more difficult. The sentiment of sabbath observance will be strengthened among nearly all classes.

Words cannot describe the horrors of such a holocaust as the burning of the Cold Storage Warehouse at Jackson Park on the 10th of July, during which more than a score of brave firemen were swallowed up in the devouring flames. Such disasters are not at all unusual, though the circumstances of this one rendered it peculiarly heart-rending. The firemen had mounted the tower to extinguish what seemed an insignificant blaze, and in an instant the bursting out of the flames below rendered

death nearly certain. A few succeeded in escaping with only slight injuries, but the greater number found a fiery grave in the raging flames below. The conduct of the men was admirable in its cool-headedness and its unselfishness.

Such catastrophes are rendered all the more appalling by the quickness and the completeness with which they are reported. What the actual spectators witness, we all see through the long wires that stretch out to all the world. The realism of modern journalism has compelled us to "weep with those that weep," as well as to "rejoice with those that rejoice." It is well, on the whole, that it is so. It makes it impossible for men to live to themselves, as once they did, in isolation and selfishness. When the world's pain and sorrow and distress is laid immediately on our own heart, we realize, as we can not otherwise, the littleness of a selfish life and the nobleness of a life of self-sacrifice for the good of others.

The great social event of the year in London took place on the 6th of July, when Prince George of Wales, the Duke of York, was married to the Princess Victoria Mary of Teck. The wedding was attended by a large gathering of the royal family, by many of the nobility, and by continental sovereigns or their representatives. The ceremonies were in the Chapel Royal, St. James Palace, but outside in the streets of London and throughout the country there was great rejoicing over the event. The Duke of York is the eldest son of the Prince of Wales, and is therefore a prospective king of England. This gave to the event its great significance. The Duke is said to have been much overcome with the realization of his position as he saw the demonstrations on every hand. We join heartily in wishing the princely pair a happy life, and one that shall contribute to the highest honor and the glory of England.

The United States government receipts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1893, were \$385,000,000; the expenditures \$383,000,000. This left a surplus of \$2,000,000 in the treasury.

Lieutenant Peary's party of Arctic explorers, on board the *Falcon*, left New York on July 2d. On the next evening the ship was docked in Boston Harbor. During the three days spent in Boston, as in New York, many people visited the ship. All who saw the vessel and its outfit will feel something like a personal interest in the long trip of the brave lieutenant and his courageous wife, which all will hope may be a safe one and crowned with success.

The financial situation of the country remains practically the same. There is great stagnation in many lines of business, collections being made with the greatest difficulty. Bank failures are still occurring in all parts of

the country, because of their inability to realize on their securities and because of the runs made on them. People have lost confidence in the government, in Congress, in the banks, in one another, and hence by precipitate action increase the very evils which they deplore. The opening of the special session of Congress on August 7th, is awaited with interest and anxiety by all classes. Congress can do and ought to do something to remove the depression under which the country is suffering, but it can not do everything. At least some of the most fundamental causes of the depression lie beyond the control of Congress, in the banking and commercial houses of the country and in the stock exchanges and boards of trade. The crisis would probably have come in some form if we had had the wisest legislation possible at Washington. The depression though hard to bear will not be without its useful lessons financially and morally.

The Home Rule Bill is practically through its committee stage in the House of Commons and will soon be reported. In order to prevent unnecessary extension of debate through numberless proposed amendments by which its opponents hoped to kill the bill, the *clôture* was adopted. This has been severely criticised as tyrannical, but as the principles of the bill have been so long before the public, and the minds of members of Parliament are made up on the subject, the only practical result of the *clôture* has been to defeat the obstructionists. The bill is likely soon to pass the House of Commons and then go to the Lords to be defeated.

The twelfth annual Convention of the Christian Endeavor Societies which met at Montreal from the 5th to the 9th of July was attended by about seventeen thousand delegates. The Catholic authorities and journals of the city extended a hearty welcome to the Convention. It is to be regretted that one or two of the speakers used such language about Catholicism as to stir up resentment on the part of certain classes of the Catholic population. This might just as well have been spared.

The President of the United Societies was enthusiastically welcomed back from his tour around the world, and gave a noble address on the growth and development of the work, the meeting, though not so large and possibly not so influential as the one at New York last year, was full of life and enthusiasm, and its good results will be manifold. The organization now has in all countries a total of 26,284 societies with a membership of 1,577,040. One of the most blessed parts of the work of this great association is its influence in promoting the spiritual unification of the various Christian bodies. This it does without in the least interfering with differences of view and independence of thought. In this way its ultimate influence in bringing about greater intellectual harmony will be very marked.

Paris came near having in the early days of July a repetition of the ugly scenes of the Commune. The difficulty arose from the effort of the police to stop an indecent student dance in the Latin quarter. Opposition on the part of the students followed. This soon involved others, and severe fighting with some loss of life took place in the streets between the rioters and the police. Tramcars were upset, omnibuses overturned and in some cases the pavements torn up to make barricades. The government closed the Labor Exchange as a seat of agitation and disorder. Twenty five thousand soldiers were ordered in from the provinces.

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way in this matter; and the opportunity was afforded by the action and initiative of the Congress of the United States. (Cheers.) The present condition of Europe made the present not the less, but the more fitting time for taking some step. Europe was groaning beneath her armaments, and some way out of the present *impasse* must be found.

We had a chance of setting an example and he asked the right honorable gentleman, who had endeavored to chill their enthusiasm, why they should not hope the most from it and what had they to fear from it. The time was favorable, and the opportunity offered to them was the best opportunity. As amended by the Prime Minister, the resolution did not ask the Government to open any general communications and negotiations with all the nations of the world, but simply to lend a favorable hearing and to give a favorable response to one initiative put before them by a nation with whom we must desire to be at peace. If we succeeded in making a sensible treaty, the example of the two great Anglo-Saxon communities must indubitably exercise a powerful influence for good on the future relations between the States of the world. Meantime this was a subject not merely for the Government, but for the House. Nothing could be simpler than this proposition that in the midst of armed Europe, the still small voice of judicial conscience and international conscience should be raised to say, "All this is folly, all this is insanity; let us agree to stop it, and put it down," for when once public opinion had thoroughly mastered this subject, they would succeed in creating a moral and physical European Power against which all the ambition of the warlike nations and the temptations of individual nations would strive in vain. (Hear, hear.)

Sir G. Baden-Powell, said he recently had some practical experience in a great case of arbitration, and from that experience he was able to offer a few sentences which he hoped might have weight with the House. He was not in a position to enter into details or to state what was occurring in this arbitration. They had met with a measure of considerable success, if only in securing that three complicated questions should be submitted to arbitration. He would venture to say that his experience since May, 1891, led him to have far greater hope of the success of arbitration between nations than he ever had before. (Hear, hear.) He did not wish to add more from the experience which he had been privileged to enjoy. There seemed, however, to be one great difficulty in ultimate sanction, and there was a problem yet to be